

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6571

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 2038

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJ: RABASA/ECHVERRIA REACTIONS TO SECRETARY'S HOUSTON SPEECH

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

1. I SAW RABASA TODAY AND HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH SECRETARY'S HOUSTON SPEECH. HE SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED IT WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, PRESENTING IT TO HIM AS EVIDENCE THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT MEXICO'S POINT OF VIEW ON CUBAN TRADE ACT AND PANAMA. ECHEVERRIA HAD BEEN SUITABLY GRATIFIED. RABASA SAID THAT AS FAR AS GOM WAS CONCERNED CUBA AND TRA WERE THE MOST URGENT MATTERS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SECRETARY COULD DELIVER ON THEM. FAILURE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH CUBA AT OASGA OR FAILURE TO OBTAIN MODIFICATIONS ON THE PUNITIVE AND DISCRIMINATING ASPECTS OF TRA WOULD OF COURSE MAKE THE SPEECH SOUND CONSIDERABLY HOLLOWER A FEW MONTHS FROM NOW. RABASA MENTIONED THAT SOME ELEMENTS BOTH WITHIN GOVERNMENT AND WITHIN MEXICAN PRESS WERE SOMEWHAT RESENTFUL ON THE ADMONITORY TONE OF THE SECTION OF THE SPEECH DEALING WITH LATIN CONFRONTATION TACTICS. THERE WAS SOME FEELING THAT THIS WAS ADDRESSED DIRECTLY TO ECHEVERRIA AND VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ. WHEN I REMONSTRATED THAT IT WAS DIRECTED TO LATIN AMERICA AS A WHOLE) RABASA OBSERVED THAT A WASHINGTON SPOKESMAN HAD ALREADY EXEMPTED ECUADOR FROM THE MENTIONED SPEECH.

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2. IN SUMMATION, RABASA SAID THAT FROM A PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW

HE WAS HIGHLY PLEASED WITH THE SPEECH BUT AS MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTER HE WAS QUITE PLEASED BUT MUST WAIT FOR ACTUAL RESULTS TO EXPRESS FINAL VERDICT. HE HAD BEEN MUCH CHASTIZED FOR HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND HE HOPED THAT AT SOME POINT EITHER THE SECRETARY OR SOMEONE IN WASHINGTON COULD GIVE A LITTLE CREDIT TO MEXICO AND SPECIFICALLY TO RABASA PERSONALLY FOR OUR PRESENT WILLINGNESS TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING ON CUBAN, TRA AND PANAMA. IN REGARD TO PANAMA HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD BEEN UPBRAIDED BY KUBISCH FOR HAVING DARED TO PUT IT ON THE AGENDA OF BOGOTA MEETING AND MAINTAINED NOW, AS HE DID THEN, THAT IT WAS "FOR THE GOOD OF THE UNITED STATES".

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